

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service
Fruit and Vegetable Programs
Market News Branch

2202 Monterey St. Suite 104-F
Fresno, CA 93721
Phone: 559-487-5178 FAX: 559-487-5199

Website: www.ams.usda.gov/marketnews.htm

Issued Monthly

Federal Market News Service
21 North 1st Ave., Suite 224
Yakima, WA 98902
Phone: 509-575-86150 FAX: 509-575-5648

Vol. XXIV, Number 2

For subscription information, please call 1-800-487-8796

March 19, 2004

HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2004 VOLUMES OF 10,000 POUNDS OR GREATER UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

- REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW AND OLD CROP HONEY, UNLESS SPECIFICALLY STATED -

Prices paid to beekeepers for extracted, unprocessed honey in major producing states by packers, handlers & other large users, cents per pound, f.o.b. or delivered nearby, containers exchanged or returned, prompt delivery & payment unless otherwise stated.

- ARKANSAS** - Soybean, light amber, \$1.00
- CALIFORNIA** - Alfalfa, extra light amber, \$1.20 (small lot)
- Alfalfa/cotton, light amber, \$1.05 - 1.10
- Cotton, light amber, \$1.24
- Mixed Valley Wildflowers, light amber, \$1.24
- Orange Blossom, white, \$1.49 - 1.50
- Orange Blossom, extra light amber, \$1.34
- Sage, white, \$1.50
- Sunflower, extra light amber, \$1.24
- Wildflower, light amber & amber, \$1.24
- COLORADO** - Alfalfa, light amber, \$1.10
- FLORIDA** - Gallberry, extra light amber, \$1.40*
- Gallberry, cut comb, \$1.50*
- Orange Blossom, extra light amber, \$1.50*
- Wildflower, extra light amber, 96¢
*Small lots that were previous commitments.
- - - N E W C R O P - - -**
- Willow, extra light amber, \$1.30
- IDAHO** - Mountain Laurel, amber, 95¢
- KANSAS** - Alfalfa, extra light amber, \$1.40
- Alfalfa, light amber, \$1.20
- LOUISIANA** - Chinese Tallow, amber, 95¢
- MICHIGAN** - Alfalfa, light amber, \$1.15
- Clover, light amber, \$1.15

MICHIGAN cont'	- Star Thistle, white, \$1.44
MINNESOTA	- Basswood/Lindon/Mint, extra light amber, \$1.35 - Basswood/Lindon/Mint, light amber, \$1.28
MONTANA	- Alfalfa, white, \$1.50 -- extra light amber, \$1.35 (small lot) - Clover, white, \$1.49 - 1.50* (higher price, prev. commitment) - Clover, light amber, \$1.35 (small lot) - Melter, amber, 39 - 74¢
NORTH DAKOTA	- Alfalfa, white, \$1.50 - - extra light amber, \$1.35-1.50 - Alfalfa, light amber, \$1.25 - 1.35 - Clover, white, \$1.38 - 1.50
OKLAHOMA	- Cotton, light amber, \$1.25
OREGON	- Alfalfa, amber, \$1.04 - 1.14 - Clover, white, \$1.46 - 1.49 - - extra light amber, \$1.34 - Pumpkin, light amber, \$1.24 - Wildberry, extra light amber, \$1.34 - 1.35 - Wildberry, light amber, \$1.24
SOUTH DAKOTA	- Alfalfa, extra light amber, \$1.40 - Clover, white, \$1.30 - 1.50 - - extra light amber, \$1.38 - Clover, light amber, \$1.10
TEXAS	- Chinese Tallow, amber, \$1.00
WASHINGTON	- Alfalfa, light amber, \$1.34 (small lot) - Mint, dark amber, 80¢ (small lot)
WISCONSIN	- Clover, white, \$1.40

Prices paid to Canadian beekeepers for unprocessed, bulk honey by packers and importers in U.S. currency, f.o.b. shipping point - containers included unless otherwise stated. Duty and crossing charges extra. Cents per pound.

PROVINCE N/A	- Canola, white, \$1.39 - 1.45 - Canola, extra light amber, \$1.25-1.34 (lower price, small lot)
---------------------	---

Prices paid to importers for bulk honey, duty paid, containers included, cents per pound ex-dock or point of entry unless otherwise stated. Cents per pound.

EAST COAST	INDIA	- Mixed Flowers, light amber, 99¢ - \$1.18 - Rapeseed, extra light amber, \$1.05
	VIETNAM	- Mixed Flowers, light amber, 88¢
WEST COAST	CHINA	- Mixed Flowers, white, 93¢

COLONY, HONEY PLANT & MARKET CONDITIONS DURING FEBRUARY, 2004**ALABAMA 000**

The State of Alabama experienced a mild winter in 2003-2004. Also, beekeepers across the state are practicing better beekeeping principles than ever before. It is for these reasons and several others that honey bees in Alabama are expected to awaken from their winter slumber in better condition than in many years past.

South Alabama honey bees made it through most of the winter with adequate stores of honey; however, most have required at least one feeding. In north Alabama (where winters are often much more harsh) the vast majority of beekeepers have had to feed twice over the winter months.

In Alabama we expect a 10% loss on average each year due to the winter climate. In recent years beekeepers across the state have witnessed losses as high as 40% (scientists agree that poor beekeeping methods may have played a large role in these statistics). Better beekeeping and a mild winter allow us to predict winter losses to be in the 8 – 12% range.

In addition to routine applications of menthol for the control of tracheal mites, the vast majority of Alabama beekeepers are alternating the use of fluvalinate & coumaphos in their colonies to control varroa mites. Many beekeepers are utilizing Checkmite+ strips more & more because we have witnessed some fluvalinate-resistant mites in past years & because coumaphos has been shown to provide some control of small hive beetle.

The small hive beetle has not been as big a problem in Alabama as it has been in many other states. This is largely due to improved sanitary measures and the fact that Alabama does not allow migratory beekeepers in the state. Nevertheless, Alabama stands vigilante in monitoring and eradicating new small hive beetle finds.

The weather this past month has been cold and wet statewide so, naturally, our honey bees have been staying inside, overeating, and flipping channels. March appears to be coming in like a lamb however, which is good news for our early foragers. Honey bees in south Alabama are actively foraging on red maple, willows, red bud, and various Malus species. Their cousins to the north will crank it up around mid-month.

Prepared by: Dr. Tomm Johnson, State Apiarist

CALIFORNIA 000

The month began with several storms moving across the State which brought heavy rains to many areas. On the 2nd, records were broken when Bakersfield received .576" and Fresno reported .56" of rain. The next week, a high pressure system covered the entire State bringing sunshine during the day but cold temperatures at night. On the 8th, daily-record lows included 29 degrees in Ojai & 22 degrees in Lancaster. Ojai had another low of 28 degrees on the 11th while Santa Barbara recorded four consecutive daily-record lows of 33, 32, 31 & 32 degrees. A few days later, heavy rains & strong winds hit Northern California, helping water supplies but caused some local flooding. The precipitation spread across the State through the end of the month. On the 22nd, a strong storm hit the 4-Corners region, boosting the snowpack in the mountains but caused mudslides in the hills burned last year. The storms shifted again to Northern California where 24-hour totals reached 6.10" in Sonoma County & 3.90" in Napa County on the 16th & 17th. The storms again dropped south where San Diego received 1.39" on February 21–23rd. during the 7-month period from July, 2003–January, 2004, only 1.55" or 29% of normal fell in San Diego but received .67" the first twenty days of February. Records were again broken on the 22nd when Santa Maria recorded 1.21" and three days later Santa Barbara received 3.34". On the 25th & 26th, Pasadena broke another record when they received 5.07" of rain. At the same time, snowfall exceed 30" above 7,000 feet.

CALIFORNIA continued...

Local and out-of-state bees were moved into almond orchards the beginning of February as buds began to swell. A lack of bees were still being reported & there were also reports of hives being stolen, likely a result of the shortages. Occasional sunny days also caused peaches, nectarines & plums to start blooming. The middle of February, the weather turned cloudy & rainy & temperatures dropped but didn't have as much of an effect on the bloom as it did slowing pollination. Frequent rain, sometimes accompanied by high winds, continued to threaten a good set in both the almonds & soft fruit trees. Because of the weather, the bloom will be longer than normal.

The bees are reported to be in fairly good condition despite the mostly unfavorable weather conditions during pollination. Most bees were fed and colony size stabilized before they were moved into the almonds and some producers continued to feed throughout the month.

Packers purchased very little honey during February as some still have adequate inventories in storage from last fall. Some are also keeping an eye on prices as they appear to be dropping slightly. China has also been offering honey at much lower prices. Beekeeping supply businesses continued to sell significant amounts of boxes and some syrup for feed.

COLORADO ooo

Bees are generally in good condition. However, there is expected to be about a 30 percent loss due to inter conditions. There used to only be about a 5% loss before the mites became a problem. Mites will shorten the lives of wintered bees. By the end of February, parts of the State were reaching 60 degrees. There was limited flight time and the bees began collecting pollen from Maple, Chinese Elms, Willows and the earliest spring flowers.

GEORGIA ooo

Colonies around the state were in generally good condition. In South Georgia, colonies were able to sustain themselves with pollen and nectar gathered from red maple trees for much of the month with spring ti-ti coming into bloom near the end of the month. In Central and North Georgia colonies were less able to sustain themselves during the month as the bloom of red maple occurred toward the latter part of the month. In those areas where still necessary, beekeepers continued to feed sugar and/or corn syrup to their colonies on the basis of need. The spring population build up proceeded along during the month with colonies in South Georgia furthest along in population increase. Weather during February for the most part featured mild to cool days with cool to cold nights for the earlier portion of the month. By the end of the month those conditions had been replaced by mild days and cool nights. Moisture levels around the state remained adequate. By the end of the month most beekeepers were sold out of stocks from the 2003 honey crop. This was aided in part by the relatively small honey flow last year.

IDAHO ooo

The vast majority of Idaho's hives are in California. There has been some concern about pollination of the early almond crop due to the cool weather and rain. Early peach blossoms will also challenge the pollination of the almond crop; bees tend to prefer them to the almonds. Most apiarists expect to bring the bees back to Idaho by the middle of March. With all of the rain and snow the State has gotten this winter, its expected to be a good year for bees.

ILLINOIS 000

Beekeepers continued supplemental feeding activities using sugar syrup and candy boards. Some beekeepers pulled treatment strips from hives in preparation of spring collection. Weather conditions were very good for the bees during the month. The first of the month, temperatures were in the teens to lower thirties over most of the state, but temperatures had warmed to the mid to upper 50's by month's end. Honeybees had numerous cleansing flights which helped colonies regain strength. Early estimates by beekeepers reported overwinter kills were 10-15%. It was also reported that there is continued heavy package demand from both Illinois and Indiana producers as beekeepers were rebuilding some of their colonies.

Honey demand continued to be good as beekeepers had little stores on hand.

INDIANA 000

Beekeepers checked their hives the last of the month as temperatures moderated. Across most of the state, colonies were reported in good condition as overwintering was closing down for the year. Supplemental feeding and treating colonies was the main activity of the beekeepers for the month. The state Apiary Inspector was setting up inspection plans for the spring. Most of the local and regional meetings were over for the year.

Weather conditions varied from zero readings the first of the month to forties and low 50's the last of the month. Some southern regions even reported temperatures in the mid-60's the last of the month. Honeybees had numerous cleansing flights in mid and southern regions while the northern section had very little bee activity.

Honey movement was reported satisfactory for the month.

IOWA 000

Beekeepers are reporting normal and usual condition of colonies. Bees have been well maintained and populated. Bees are in good shape. No significant winter and mite loss.

Central and Southern sections of the state reported high of 59 degrees and Low of -4 degrees. Average temperature for the month was 25 degrees, about 2 degrees below normal. Precipitation was posted slightly above normal at 1.75 inches. Snowfall was 14.5 inches. Colder temperatures of January continued into the beginning of the month.

KANSAS & NEBRASKA 000

Beekeepers report that routine maintenance of the colonies and hives have been normal, no significant loss. The colonies are healthy and eating well. Populations are normal. Weather conditions in eastern Kansas recorded a high of 65 degrees and low of -3 degrees. Average temperatures were around 32 degrees, about 3 degree below normal. Precipitation was about normal. Southern Nebraska experienced high 55 degrees and low of -13. Average temperature was about 23, about 4 degrees below normal. Precipitation was about normal of .74 inches, total snowfall was 8.8 inches.

KENTUCKY 000

The honey crop in Kentucky was only fair last year, and many beekeepers had to feed over the winter. The weather was cold enough, however, to keep the bees in the hives which kept the losses to a minimum. They will start working the early-blooming trees including Maple as soon as the weather warms up. There is some overall concern regarding varroa mites developing a resistance to Checkmite+, and the beekeepers will be watching this very closely.

MISSISSIPPI 000

Colonies around the state were in generally good condition in the southern portion of the state but only in fairly good condition north of that region. In all areas of the state beekeepers continuing to feed sugar and/or corn syrup to their colonies on the basis of need, more so than normal due to wet weather for most of the month. These conditions held back flowering & also the ability to gather by the colonies. Due to these unfavorable weather conditions red maple trees were only able to provide some pollen and nectar in southern Mississippi, and only a relatively small amount of pollen and nectar in other areas of the state just toward the close of the month. In late February Hen Bit, a wildflower, was able to provide some food in central and northern portions of the state but not as much as would be expected again due to the inability of colonies to gather in wet weather. Spring ti-ti is expected to be a food source in southern Mississippi in early March. Colonies built their populations during most of the month in southern Mississippi but were just in the initial stages of build up by the end of the month further north with the process slowed by cold, wet weather. Throughout the state colonies were treated with preventive antibiotics for American Foul Brood and parasitic mite infestations. In southern Mississippi during the month colonies were also treated by placing miticide strips in the hive and spraying insecticides outside the hive to combat any build up of hive beetles. For the state as a whole, weather during February was excessively wet with temperatures varied south to north from mild to cold days for much of the month with generally milder temperatures as February ended. By the end of the month most beekeepers were sold out of stocks from the 2003 honey crop in spite of having a generally normal to better than normal honey flow last year.

MISSOURI 000

Beekeepers around the state report that winter conditions were favorable. The colonies suffered no significant loss, as conditions granted. Bees have been well fed and maintained normal populations despite the continuing presence of mites. Many bees have been active in California and Florida.

Weather condition in the eastern part of the state reached high of 67 degrees and low of 14 degrees. Average temperatures were about 38 degrees, about 3 degrees below normal. Precipitation and snowfall was slightly below normal.

The Western section reached a high of 66 and a low of 2. Average temperature was about 33 degrees, about 2 degrees above normal. Precipitation was about normal as snowfall reached highs of 9.8 inches certain areas. Beekeepers are looking forward to a great spring. Bees are in good shape.

MONTANA 000

Central and Eastern Montana's weather continued its cold trend into February with a snow floor and temperatures ranging from 8 to 22 degrees below normal. Temperatures warmed as several fronts moved thru the area adding more snow before high pressure systems would rebuild, sending temperatures falling again. By month's end, temperatures tended to slowly moderate, causing snow to melt in the lower elevations. Bees wintered over in the state remained stacked and covered for the winter.

NEBRASKA 000

The bees made it through the winter pretty well. As it continues to warm up, bee keepers will need to check the stores and feed them if necessary. About 32 inches of snow fell in the Lincoln area during February, however, the end of the month saw a few 50 degree days so the bees have been able to get out and fly around. They are beginning to gather pollen from the earliest spring flowers.

NEW ENGLAND 000

Weather for the New England region remained dry. Precipitation for March was again half of average recordings. Cold temperatures continued through most of the month with a low of 12 degrees recorded on the 16th. By the end of the month, temperatures were in the mid 40s, with an almost spring like high of 55 degrees on the 29th.

NORTH CAROLINA 000

For the most part, February has proven to be a cold, wet month for the state of North Carolina. Some parts of the state received significant amounts of snow, as much as 17 inches in some areas, and other areas received rain or ice. We are going into the spring with the water tables high and most beekeepers anticipating a good season. Apiary activity has remained slow during the month, due to the cold weather. Beekeepers continue to inspect, feed and repair equipment. Some buds are beginning to swell, showing signs of an early spring.

NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA 000

In North Dakota, February began with colder than normal temperatures and widespread snowfall. Conditions were moderate through the end of the month which began to melt the snow cover. On February 29th, the average snow cover was 10.8" compared to 3" a year ago. In South Dakota there were a few days with cold, snowy weather, but most of the month was fairly mild. On the 26th, some areas in the central section of the state had daytime highs into the mid to upper 60's. Average snow depth was only 1.90", raising concerns over water supplies later.

Bees wintered in the State are in fairly good condition as the mild temperatures gave them days for cleansing flights. This also caused them to consume more of their winter stores. Some migratory beekeepers had their bees in California for almond pollination while others have had them sitting in Texas all winter. Those colonies have been built up on various flowering ground cover plants and the yaupon bushes. Splits were being made the end of February.

OREGON 000

Rains in the lower lands and snow in the mountains continued across Oregon as January turned to February as several storms came in from the Pacific, resulting in precipitation totals and mountain snow packs equating to normal levels by months end. Despite the stormy Northwest weather, Beekeepers reported that bees remaining in Oregon benefited from several days of warmer weather for cleansing flights. Most Beekeepers reported strong healthy bees and hives while scattered cases of mite related diseases and deaths were also noted

TENNESSEE 000

The State of Tennessee beekeepers are expecting a loss of about 30-40% over the winter months. February was still too cool to start work outside, but many beekeepers are planning to increase their hives this season.

Fortunately, there is less concern regarding the small hive beetle this year, although most keepers will be treating for tracheal mites right away. The tulip poplars which are a main feeding source are looking good due to plenty of rain, and are expected to offer plentiful nectar this spring.

UTAH 000

February was a very quiet month in the Utah Bee Industry. The majority of the bees are in California pollinating the almond crop. Those bees that did stay in Utah didn't see much flight time as the weather was very wet and cold. Some of the bees will come back to the State in March, others will go up to Oregon and pollinate the apples and then come back to Utah some time in April.

WASHINGTON 000

Frequent rain showers in the valleys and snow in the mountains continued to ease worries about water supplies. The first irrigation forecast of the year was issued by the Bureau of Reclamation on the 9th and showed water supplies should be adequate for all uses this summer. Occasionally a strong storm moved across Western Washington causing local flooding.

Bees in Western Washington are reported to be in good condition as occasional warm days allowed for frequent cleansing and food gathering flights. There was an abundance of floral sources available during the month, including cherry and plum trees, dandelions, daffodils and other spring flowers. Migratory beekeepers from Western Washington reported their bees did well in the almonds but will not be able to fly as much as usual because of the rain. There are also reports of hives being stolen during the month.

The average temperature in parts of Eastern Washington during February was right around the freezing mark. Over 8" of snow fell along with over an inch of rain. Four out of the 1st five days of the month had lows in the teens. After four days of lows in the 20's, temperatures again dropped into the teens for four days. The bees are reported to be very strong or very weak with losses of 30-50% after the second week of cold temperatures. Honey stores were adequate but supplies of pollen declined because of the weather the first half of the month but some plants and trees were beginning to bloom towards the end of February.

Migratory beekeepers were busy in California the beginning of the month, getting their hives into the almond orchards. There are reports of entire hives being stolen or in some cases, the tops were removed and the frames and queens were taken.

WISCONSIN 000

Colonies were reported overwintering well over the state. Supplemental feeding activities continued throughout the month. A few beekeepers checked their colonies the last of the month as temperatures began to warm. Sugar syrup and candy boards have been used for feeding. Nearly all of the northern section of the State had ample snow cover most of the month while the southern section reported their snow cover was lighter than normal. Beekeepers were concerned with continued dryer conditions than normal.

Honey demand was reported well in the retail sector. Little honey was in beekeepers' hands.

U S. EXPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION, QUANTITY & VALUE

	DECEMBER 2003		YEAR TO DATE 2003	
	QUANTITY Kilograms	VALUE Dollars	QUANTITY Kilograms	VALUE Dollars
COMB HONEY & HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE ----- DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE				
Mexico	3,889	5,100	24,325	31,257
Guatemala	---	---	589	2,573
Panama	---	---	1,140	5,147
Bermuda	---	---	1,504	8,224
Jamaica	---	---	3,965	5,200
Cayman Islands	---	---	1,076	4,334
Barbados	---	---	863	3,689
Northern Antilles	---	---	3,301	11,641
Aruba	340	2,501	2,505	16,047
United Kingdom	---	---	816	3,000
Netherlands	---	---	1,009	3,665
France	---	---	1,181	4,515
Germany	---	---	1,824	5,507
Turkey	1,741	7,555	4,241	12,655
Israel	---	---	3,103	10,000
Jordan	---	---	1,089	4,450
Kuwait	---	---	432,596	652,858
Saudi Arabia	57,307	75,171	360,155	529,124
Arab Emirates	55,536	72,847	194,749	255,454
Yemen	---	---	116,062	133,671
Bahrain	---	---	13,418	22,304
Pakistan	42,088	55,207	42,088	55,207
Cambodia	---	---	1,143	6,185
Malaysia	---	---	14,770	19,372
Singapore	---	---	19,958	26,179
Philippines	53,496	71,171	166,379	248,458
China	2,483	8,580	14,025	49,350
Korean Republic	450	3,907	127,005	172,907
Hong Kong	---	---	21,030	56,245
Taiwan	772	2,668	4,488	14,776
Japan	1,642	6,020	203,748	301,174
TOTAL	219,744	309,727	1,784,145	2,675,168

HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED - - - DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE

Canada	72,801	207,353	635,010	1,438,259
Mexico	---	---	1,160	6,682
Costa Rica	---	---	22,776	23,210
Panama	---	---	2,360	10,292
Bermuda	---	---	1,654	7,128
Bahamas	682	2,769	9,405	35,285
Jamaica	---	---	2,268	8,799

EXPORTS continued...

Barbados	1,258	4,082	7,504	27,191
Northern Antilles	---	---	816	4,369
Aruba	---	---	3,030	11,812
Chile	---	---	1,723	8,966
Netherlands	12,440	35,854	22,451	65,330
Germany	---	---	60,468	91,090
Armenia	---	---	14,944	25,867
Israel	---	---	328	2,665
Singapore	---	---	13,202	25,800
Indonesia	---	---	100,949	257,953
Philippines	---	---	6,578	26,900
China	---	---	50,857	132,621
Korean Republic	---	---	95,228	267,642
Taiwan	---	---	78,884	31,679
Japan	17,820	64,192	176,378	481,820
Australia	---	---	25,418	60,900
TOTAL	105,001	314,250	1,331,189	3,043,648

HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED - - - - FOREIGN MERCHANDISE

Canada	75,257	192,466	103,340	263,935
Mexico	---	---	18,663	30,178
Costa Rica	---	---	18,600	31,620
Peru	---	---	20,100	34,170
Spain	---	---	186,002	360,840
Indonesia	---	---	37,200	37,200
China	---	---	1,458,983	2,941,140
Japan	---	---	74,240	37,120
TOTAL	75,257	192,466	1,917,128	3,736,203

U. S. IMPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY, QUANTITY AND VALUE

COUNTRY	D E C E M B E R 2 0 0 3			Y E A R T O D A T E 2 0 0 3		
	QUANTITY kilograms	CUSTOMS	C.I.F.	QUANTITY kilograms	CUSTOMS	C.I.F.
		VALUE dollars	VALUE dollars		VALUE dollars	VALUE dollars

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - WHITE

Canada	449,371	1,485,573	1,490,415	9,340,372	31,045,748	31,253,991
Mexico	---	---	---	1,017,664	2,879,801	2,937,757
Chile	---	---	---	1,986,913	5,195,624	5,357,554
Brazil	339,025	892,231	931,828	1,435,082	3,632,678	3,809,001
Uruguay	---	---	---	559,007	1,593,461	1,631,232
Argentina	---	---	---	3,544,947	8,905,617	9,268,386

IMPORTS continued

United Kingdom	---	---	---	13,058	38,419	39,811
Germany	---	---	---	145,392	354,671	367,506
Australia	---	---	---	680	2,742	3,021
Czech Republic	---	---	---	69,479	184,119	195,303
Hungary	---	---	---	198,000	519,008	537,228
Poland	18,850	51,545	52,748	18,850	51,545	52,780
Russia	54,363	94,849	105,239	54,711	96,867	107,544
Ukraine	37,700	71,943	78,793	297,828	565,543	618,053
Spain	728	6,322	6,403	8,182	46,904	48,161
Romania	19,000	50,750	52,915	124,818	323,002	339,101
Turkey	---	---	---	74,527	160,131	168,429
India	19,973	41,943	44,843	1,633,736	3,811,665	4,082,497
Pakistan	38,000	58,900	65,152	286,963	425,472	474,721
Thailand	19,936	36,192	36,194	19,936	36,192	36,194
Vietnam	---	---	---	415,580	905,473	961,225
China, Mainland	1,037,350	1,502,631	1,710,330	8,208,691	12,097,913	12,185,088
Australia	---	---	---	19,868	58,956	59,371
New Zealand	---	---	---	800	4,347	4,600
TOTAL	2,034,296	4,292,879	4,574,892	29,496,564	72,983,308	75,588,340

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - EXTRA LIGHT AMBER

Canada	---	---	---	150,769	502,685	511,184
Mexico	208,575	578,462	597,179	798,363	2,239,842	2,305,937
Peru	---	---	---	18,600	39,990	42,440
Chile	---	---	---	502,614	1,377,015	1,425,273
Brazil	19,430	52,947	55,147	602,553	1,399,753	1,459,760
Uruguay	15,504	45,600	47,422	972,755	2,737,349	2,804,151
Argentina	---	---	---	583,866	1,400,908	1,462,938
Germany	---	---	---	1,182	6,899	6,968
Austria	---	---	---	460	3,507	3,574
Czechoslovakia	36,690	96,840	100,824	72,998	192,668	200,636
Russia	18,852	42,222	42,720	18,852	42,222	42,720
Ukraine	17,072	39,948	42,935	34,769	81,537	97,971
Romania	---	---	---	18,760	42,009	42,507
Bulgaria	19,068	87,401	89,396	19,068	87,401	89,396
Turkey	18,900	40,446	42,437	174,468	438,612	460,823
India	---	---	---	1,090,800	2,424,055	2,518,118
Pakistan	---	---	---	19,000	27,550	30,491
Vietnam	81,097	147,084	155,040	612,326	1,135,252	1,203,986
Indonesia	---	---	---	185,600	339,648	375,648
China	941,920	1,324,326	1,452,123	4,774,486	7,316,514	7,910,099
Australia	---	---	---	18,000	54,660	57,160
Egypt	---	---	---	237,808	441,697	467,353
TOTAL	1,377,108	2,455,276	2,625,223	10,908,097	22,331,773	23,509,133

IMPORTS continued**NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - LIGHT AMBER**

Canada	2,395	7,866	7,910	365,495	1,091,194	1,101,979
Mexico	112,735	243,426	248,181	3,146,208	8,152,118	8,366,541
Dom. Republic	898	2,640	2,728	4,322	12,705	13,169
Venezuela	---	---	---	6,143	38,189	39,124
Peru	---	---	---	892,705	1,839,539	1,924,470
Chile	---	---	---	1,965,089	5,066,343	5,236,885
Brazil	192,842	435,937	467,209	4,514,119	10,335,812	10,873,883
Uruguay	---	---	---	3,646,394	9,901,995	10,191,104
Argentina	19,021	87,401	89,396	281,210	666,481	695,413
Denmark	---	---	---	12,096	51,710	55,560
United Kingdom	---	---	---	118	3,314	3,628
France	397	4,734	5,627	1,437	9,154	10,261
Germany	11,204	52,059	53,559	230,149	794,779	877,404
Czech Republic	---	---	---	74,053	195,467	203,435
Hungary	---	---	---	25,800	84,495	86,780
Switzerland	---	---	---	8,941	37,360	39,361
Latvia	---	---	---	1,260	2,134	2,364
Lithuania	---	---	---	1,122	4,006	4,306
Ukraine	37,800	80,892	84,874	688,560	1,551,874	1,637,640
Kazakhstan	---	---	---	20,000	43,522	46,219
Moldova	---	---	---	164,040	336,142	350,927
Spain	---	---	---	480	2,627	2,771
Italy	---	---	---	2,729	12,803	13,439
Romania	75,040	170,850	178,813	859,211	2,020,823	2,113,800
Bulgaria	38,280	90,340	94,340	547,850	1,248,625	1,329,950
Turkey	116,400	303,450	330,948	1,501,845	3,620,819	3,820,654
India	19,972	41,939	44,114	1,642,245	3,306,465	3,511,619
Pakistan	---	---	---	38,636	59,994	62,300
Burma	---	---	---	56,250	69,075	75,017
Thailand	31,500	70,586	74,862	742,921	1,764,412	1,856,344
Vietnam	289,144	507,701	558,373	6,625,091	13,482,262	14,357,516
Malaysia	---	---	---	2,793,849	4,785,740	5,248,631
Indonesia	---	---	---	18,000	26,684	39,960
China	699,190	758,601	818,385	10,978,651	15,867,748	17,214,291
New Zealand	---	---	---	98,308	382,296	397,059
Egypt	---	---	---	23,415	40,568	44,265
Burkina	---	---	---	19,095	38,190	41,356
TOTAL	1,626,846	2,816,483	3,015,205	41,997,837	86,963,464	91,888,505

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE – NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED

Canada	45,087	120,094	120,450	199,019	463,890	468,855
Mexico	75,509	220,487	222,887	2,311,450	6,191,505	6,238,073
Dom. Republic	6,946	5,376	5,999	218,114	213,503	231,311
Colombia	---	---	---	19,656	35,970	37,970
Peru	---	---	---	2,320	3,480	3,670

IMPORTS continued...

Chile	---	---	---	95,356	250,604	259,248
Brazil	---	---	---	607,369	1,426,238	1,491,094
Uruguay	---	---	---	117,783	310,077	318,038
Argentina	---	---	---	14,731	40,179	42,618
United Kingdom	---	---	---	106	2,374	2,600
Netherlands	---	---	---	75,199	336,587	337,031
France	---	---	---	2,051	15,113	16,228
Austria	---	---	---	6,963	42,656	48,389
Switzerland	782	7,705	7,817	21,838	162,494	168,931
Russia	---	---	---	3,585	16,217	17,769
Ukraine	2,016	4,758	5,727	23,262	62,081	66,108
Spain	---	---	---	6,283	20,895	22,395
Portugal	---	---	---	6,960	16,951	17,846
Italy	300	2,294	2,507	5,704	19,414	21,694
Greece	227	2,168	2,217	1,149	9,785	10,189
Turkey	---	---	---	96,521	214,613	230,782
Israel	---	---	---	10,990	63,285	66,794
India	---	---	---	353,400	819,159	933,275
Thailand	---	---	---	36,000	63,000	63,090
Vietnam	---	---	---	187,180	336,078	359,736
China	98,600	99,720	108,470	98,600	99,720	108,470
Hong Kong	---	---	---	5,400	23,364	23,971
Taiwan	---	---	---	33,584	50,818	54,489
Australia	---	---	---	38,049	169,047	176,927
TOTAL	229,467	462,602	476,074	4,598,622	11,479,157	11,837,591

SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - FOREIGN TRADE DIVISION

Honey Prices Record High

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2003 to 140.4 cents, up 6% from 132.7 cents in 2002. Prices are based on retail sales by producers & sales to private processors and cooperatives. State level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op and private channels. U.S. honey prices for each color class are derived by weighing quantities sold for each marketing channel at the U.S. level. Honey prices for 2003 were higher than the previous year for all color classes. Some 2002 crop honey was sold at the higher prices in 2003, which caused some revisions to the 2002 crop prices.

HONEY: Price by Color Class, United States, 2002-03

Color Class	P R I C E					
	Cents per Pound					
	Co-op and Private		Retail		All	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
Water White, Extra White, White	139.6	143.8	153.8	187.0	140.2	146.0
Extra Light Amber	127.2	135.1	142.0	177.1	128.3	138.1
Light Amber, Amber, Dark Amber	119.0	128.6	154.3	185.4	122.8	133.9
All Other Honey,						
Area Specialties	109.8	116.3	194.9	251.3	121.9	130.3
All Honey	131.3	137.1	152.2	184.9	132.7	140.4

UNITED STATES HONEY PRODUCTION UP 5%

Honey production in 2003 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 181 million pounds, up 5% from 2002. There were 2.59 million colonies producing honey in 2003, up 1% from 2002. Yield per colony averaged 69.9 pounds, up 5% from the 66.7 pounds in 2002. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 40.7 million pounds on December 15, 2003, up 3% from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price & Value by State & U.S.2002 1/

State	Honey Producing Colonies	Yield per Colony	Production	Stocks Dec 15 2/	Average Price per Pound 3/	Value of Production
	1,000	Pounds	-- 1,000 Pounds --		Cents	1,000 Dollars
AL	12	86	1,032	103	118	1,218
AZ	38	63	2,394	1,197	108	2,586
AR	45	88	3,960	871	126	4,990
CA	470	50	23,500	3,525	132	31,020
CO	24	60	1,440	576	129	1,858
FL	220	93	20,460	2,026	114	23,324
GA	50	52	2,600	52	113	2,938
HI	7	136	952	29	111	1,057
ID	100	57	5,700	1,653	137	7,809
IL	9	80	720	130	147	1,058
IN	8	62	496	233	119	590
IA	33	70	2,310	901	143	3,303
KS	17	52	884	407	150	1,326
KY	5	54	270	78	163	440
LA	35	124	4,340	347	116	5,034
ME	11	41	451	266	121	546
MD	3	46	138	21	196	270
MI	72	77	5,544	1,885	140	7,762
MN	117	73	8,541	1,110	147	12,555
MS	18	78	1,404	281	123	1,727
MO	18	50	900	189	142	1,278
MT	134	63	8,442	1,097	138	11,650
NE	43	75	3,225	1,161	149	4,805
NV	9	62	558	61	267	1,490
NJ	11	40	440	92	100	440
NM	11	44	484	252	110	532
NY	60	98	5,880	2,470	125	7,350
NC	16	42	672	74	141	948
ND	320	75	24,000	8,160	146	35,040
OH	18	70	1,260	504	144	1,814
OK	3	53	159	51	163	259
OR	43	49	2,107	885	135	2,844
PA	29	57	1,653	827	134	2,215
SC	5	94	470	14	125	588
SD	225	51	11,475	2,410	142	16,295
TN	8	61	488	137	140	683
TX	114	67	7,638	985	114	8,707
UT	22	59	1,298	208	130	1,687
VT	7	89	623	274	120	748
VA	8	38	304	79	190	578
WA	50	51	2,550	561	127	3,239
WV	9	51	459	151	132	606
WI	70	95	6,650	2,461	134	8,911
WY	38	63	2,394	383	133	3,184
Oth Sts 4/ 5/	9	50	453	216	229	1,036
U.S. TOTAL 5/	2,574	66.7	171,718	39,393	132.7	228,338

1/ For producers with 5 or more colonies. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State. 2/ Stocks held by producers. 3/ Prices weighted by sales. 4/ CT, DE, MA, NH, and RI not published separately to

avoid disclosing data for individual operations. 5/ Total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production.

6/ U.S. value of production is U.S. production multiplied by U.S. price per pound.

Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price & Value by State & U.S., 2003 1/

State	Honey Producing Colonies	Yield per Colony	Production	Stocks Dec 15 2/	Average Price per Pound 3/	Value of Production
	1,000	Pounds	-- 1,000 Pounds --		Cents	1,000 Dollars
AL	13	82	1,066	43	126	1,343
AZ	40	72	2,880	1,123	138	3,974
AR	40	75	3,000	810	127	3,810
CA	480	67	32,160	6,432	142	45,667
CO	24	86	2,064	722	138	2,848
FL	210	71	14,910	1,491	135	20,129
GA	52	65	3,380	270	128	4,326
HI	7	113	791	43	143	1,131
ID	100	46	4,600	1,380	135	6,210
IL	7	60	420	252	173	727
IN	5	56	280	78	159	445
IA	32	59	1,888	868	145	2,738
KS	16	57	912	447	158	1,441
KY	5	48	240	14	164	394
LA	34	90	3,060	275	124	3,794
ME	8	33	264	145	140	370
MD	2	42	84	21	191	160
MI	65	74	4,810	1,732	147	7,071
MN	120	83	9,960	1,892	146	14,542
MS	21	69	1,449	246	128	1,855
MO	17	53	901	189	141	1,270
MT	145	66	9,570	1,914	148	14,164
NE	45	74	3,330	1,299	143	4,762
NV	6	64	384	46	241	925
NJ	10	19	190	101	157	298
NM	6	41	246	108	116	285
NY	67	72	4,824	1,640	140	6,754
NC	10	44	440	79	190	836
ND	340	87	29,580	6,803	136	40,229
OH	15	50	750	278	143	1,073
OK	3	47	141	69	183	258
OR	42	51	2,142	964	126	2,699
PA	27	50	1,350	419	132	1,782
SC	6	70	420	13	195	819
SD	200	70	14,000	2,520	146	20,440
TN	7	40	280	53	153	428
TX	140	67	9,380	1,126	142	13,320
UT	23	57	1,311	144	130	1,704
VT	7	83	581	163	192	1,116
VA	6	37	222	69	169	375
WA	58	56	3,248	942	152	4,937
WV	8	47	376	194	201	756
WI	74	77	5,698	2,678	144	8,205
WY	39	81	3,159	474	140	4,423
Oth Sts 4/ 5/	8	44	355	166	270	958
U.S. TOTAL 5/	2,590	69.9	181,096	40,735	140.4	255,791

1/ For producers with 5 or more colonies. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State. 2/ Stocks held by producers. 3/ Prices weighted by sales. 4/ CT, DE, MA, NH, and RI not published separately to

avoid disclosing data for individual operations. 5/ Total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production.

6/ U.S. value of production is U.S. production multiplied by U.S. price per pound.

SPECIAL NOTE...

Preliminary 2002 Census data were used in the review process for the 2003 and revised 2002 estimates included in this publication. States requiring 5-year historical revisions may carry a disjointed data series from their current historical data series. Estimates for 2002 contained in this publication will be republished in the Honey - Final Estimates 1998-2002 publication which is scheduled for release on April 29, 2004.

SOURCE: USDA, National Agricultural
Statistics Service